



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 2nd Ave. South, Room 101, Okanogan, WA 98840 – Phone: (509) 422-0855 ext. 5 – Fax: (509) 422-0532

May 18, 2005

TO: Washington State Conservation Districts

CC: Washington State Conservation Commission
USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

FROM: Craig Nelson, WACD Awards Committee Chair

SUBJECT: 2005 WACD Awards nominations now being accepted.

Fellow Conservationists:

It is once again the time of the year when award nominations are being sought for the highly coveted and prestigious Washington Association of Conservation Districts awards. The good news is there are no new rules or awards to learn. Even better there is no bad news.

This is your opportunity as an individual, District, group, team, or community to tell all of us the story of exceptional folks who have a strong conservation ethic and make conservation happen. We all know someone who is deserving of some special recognition for an activity, or their generous giving of time and thought to projects and programs. **Will you be the one that nominates them for the award they so richly deserve?**

Please consider the excellent folks out there that you know and review the award program guidelines for details of what you will need to write the best nomination. Now, get to work on the nomination. Don't put it off just because the deadline is a few weeks or even months away. That person you are thinking about deserves recognition, not an excuse of running out of time. I encourage you to contact me directly if you have questions about how to make your nomination stand out. But just in case you are shy or can't find my phone number, here are some hints. First, very clearly speak to the award criteria found at the bottom of each award nomination cover sheet. If you describe the nominees efforts related to those criteria succinctly with clear detail, your nominee has a significantly increased chance of being selected. Secondly, if you wish to enclose photographs or other material to be considered please take into consideration a few factors. One factor is copies need to be made for the seven judges so don't send too much information for these fine volunteers. Another factor is copies of photos are generally not clear enough to view so I encourage folks who submit photos to print seven clear copies and send in with the nomination. Third and last, submit the nomination early. Too often we receive nominations after the deadline and it puts me and the

other committee members in the uncomfortable position of telling the nominator that we can't rank the nomination this year. We are steadfast on that rule, hence my encouragement to have folks nominate early.

Please take a little time and put some effort into a nomination that will surely bring a smile to the nominee's face and is guaranteed to bring happiness to your heart. Then if the person is selected the feelings shared by all of you will be 100 times greater!

If you have questions about the nomination criteria, program rules, or other questions about WACD awards in general please call me at (509) 422-0855 ext. 110 or send me your questions and thoughts by e-mail to: craign@okanogancd.org.

I look forward to reviewing your nominations!